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12 Cars Of Livestock To Enter Winter Fair

Alberta livestock to be exhibited in Toronto's Royal Winter Fair in November, has been approved by the Alberta Livestock Board. About 12 cars of livestock will be entered, the estimated entries totalling 24 horses, 38 beef cattle, 20 dairy cattle, 12 dual purpose cattle, 11 market cattle, 14 swine and 30 sheep.

Alberta breeders from whose herds livestock has been selected are:

HORSES: Clydesdale—William McDonald, Edmonton; W. Montgomery, Balzac; A. Ingram, Midnapore; Dominion Experimental Station, Lacombe; R. Haining, Clive.

Percherons—H. Arbuckle, Airdrie; H. E. Salter, Calgary; Carl Hanson, Brightview.

Belgian—Hon. D. A. Ure, Edmonton.

Light Horses—Mrs. R. M. Smith, Calwin P.O.; J. H. Gray, Calgary; Mrs. Joy Walters, Calgary; R. D. McDonald, Calgary; William Herron, Calwin P.O.; Miss Edith Rodie, Calgary.

CATTLE: Shorthorn—T. G. Hamilton, Innisfail; J. Skaret, Linaria.

Hereford—Warren Smith, Olds; J. A. Paul, Okotoks; W. J. Edgar, Innisfail; Webber Hereford Ranch, Claresholm; Hunter Brothers, Fort Macleod; Victor Watson, Airdrie; A. A. Beiber, Rimbey.

Aberdeen Angus—Old Hermitage Farm, Edmonton; Highland Stock Farm, Calgary; Albert Murphy, Altario; W. L. McGillivray, Coaldale.

Market Cattle—University of Alberta; R. Y. Secord and Son, Winterburn; Ed. Noad, Claresholm; Frank Radau, Bowden; W. J. Edgar, Innisfail; Highland Stock Farm, Calgary.

Red Poll—E. A. Atkinson, St. Albert; Fred Ford and Fred S. Ford Jr., Heath; Joseph Marshall, Innisfail.

Holstein—Tom Morris, Didsbury; A. Millington, Medicine Hat; C. Cox, Calgary; Curtis Clarke, Carstairs; J. W. Hosford, Edmonton.

Ayshire—Richard Brothers, Red Deer; A. Anderson, Calgary.

SHEEP: Hampshire—B. H. A. McDonald, Champion.

Suffolk—C. H. Borwick, Drumheller; Mr. McDonald.

SWINE: Yorkshire—Lord Rodney, Fort Saskatchewan; N. J. Shopland, Rochester; R. N. Ralph, Stavely.

Tamworth—A. L. Greenway and Son, Acme. ●

Booklet Describes Construction Of Barns

A detailed guide to dairy barn construction has been prepared and now is available from Extension Service, Alberta Department of Agriculture.

The booklet, entitled "Dairy Barns for Alberta," devotes a chapter each to the stall-type barns and loose housing barns. Plans are included to assist farmers in planning the laycut and style best suited to their needs.

The loose housing type of barn is new to Alberta and this booklet presents full information on this type. Although the loose-housing principle of managing dairy cows is established in the United States, it did not appear in Alberta until 1948.

Shortage of farm help has interested Alberta farmers in this type of barn. Much less labor is needed for a loose housing system than the stall barn system. The loose housing barn, where the cows run loose in a feeding and resting area until milking time when they are taken to a milking room, cuts down the work of milking, feeding and barn cleaning.

Considerable labor is saved in the loose housing barn by leaving the manure on the floor of the feeding and resting area during the winter and adding sufficient bedding to keep the surface clean. ●

Five Alberta Families Share Master Farm Award Honors

Winners of the Master Farm Family Awards for 1952 were announced today by Hon. David Ure, Minister of Agriculture. This is the fourth year of the Alberta Master Farm Family program.

These are Alberta's Master Farm Families for this year:

E. R. Lewis Family, Stony Plain.
John Lambert Family, Manning.
John Skrypitsky Family, Mundare.
J. H. Schmaltz Family, Beiseker.
Jessie Cole Family, Clive.

Each family receives an award of $1,000, an engraved plaque and a name plate for the farm entrance.

The main objective of the Master Farm Family Program is to provide Alberta farmers with a practical demonstration of how a family can achieve success in farming and living with each other and their community. The program is intended to emphasize the advantages of the farming vocation and the dignity and satisfaction of farm life. Through the program, farm youth gain a clear understanding of the high ideals of agriculture and learn of the opportunities offered them in agriculture.

"Good Farming, Right Living and Clear Thinking is the slogan of the Master Farm Family Program," Mr. Ure said. "We try to find farm families whose life has been guided by these principles. The families we are honoring this year are outstanding for their achievements in agriculture, home-making and citizenship."

Interest in the program continued keen this year with 32 families being nominated for the awards, approximately the same number of nominations as last year.

Candidates must be Canadian citizens who have operated a farm either as owner or lessee for 20 consecutive years. At least three neighbors must nominate a family and the family must agree to accept the honor of nomination.

Winners are selected on a regional basis and a provincial committee confirms the selections. Each regional committee is made up of a working farmer, a technical agriculturist, a home economist, a housewife, and a representative of the Experimental Farms. Each region corresponds roughly to one of the five Alberta soil zones.

A total of 87 factors related to the farm operation, farm life, community work and business management are evaluated in each case and points given for each factor. For each of the factors there is a possible score and the candidate's score is measured against this.

The Minister of Agriculture extended the congratulations of the Alberta Government to the five families whose high achievements made the awards possible. He also congratulated the other candidates, pointing out that nomination is in itself a great honor and proof of the high regard held for them in their communities. In conclusion, he emphasized the important work done by the selection committees, without whose assistance the Master Farm Family Program would be unworkable. ●

(See Picture Page on Page Four)

Farms Quarantined, Dogs Vaccinated

Alberta Government Acts To Fight Rabies Epidemic

While Settlers Arm For Protection, Provincial Medical Health Officer Co-operates With Federal Officials To Stamp Out Scourge

For the first time in Alberta's history an epidemic of rabies — a highly infectious disease which causes madness and death —has swept through the fox and wolf population in the wilderness and into an established agricultural area.

The Fort Vermilion district, long recognized as Alberta's most northern farming centre, is plagued by the disease which has already accounted for the lives of cattle, hogs, horses and other farm animals.

By the end of September, more than 37 farms were placed under quarantine and almost 1,300 dogs in the area had been vaccinated. Four men are also under observation after handling or skinning infected animals and a quarantine has been placed on all of Alberta lying north of the 57th Parallel, forbidding the export of dogs which might carry the disease to other parts of the Province.

Many individual cases of mad foxes and timber wolves have been reported and at least one case of a wolf attacking humans has been substantiated, although no one has yet been bitten. Warnings have been posted throughout the area by Dr. J. Kratz, Provincial Medical Officer of Health, in an attempt to prevent the disease from spreading to humans.

Foxes First Infected

First signs of the rabies were seen among foxes earlier in the year at Fort Chipewyan and Fort Fitzgerald in north-eastern Alberta. From there it spread quickly up the Peace River to Wood Buffalo Park. The park authorities took immediate action to control the disease and gave warning to residents upriver at Little Red River and nearby trading posts.

Mrs. L. Gray, the wife of a freighter at Little Red River, reported that by late in August the local citizens had noticed a change in the character of the foxes. They were no longer shy and timid, but walked boldly near cabins and settlements. Soon several dogs were bitten and died of rabies. A short time later the diseased foxes had moved as far as Fort Vermilion and spread through the farming area.

The approximate range of the rabid animals by the end of September was from the Mackenzie Highway on the west to below Upper Hay River Post on the north, Lake Athabasca on the east, and Paddle Prairie on the south. There are about 3,500 persons living in this district of which about 300 are centred in Fort Vermilion. The remainder are on the 300 farms on the north and south sides of the Peace River or are trappers, traders and Indians.

Fox Population at Maximum

To add to the normal difficulties of wiping out an epidemic among wild animals, this is a year when foxes reach the peak of their eight-year population cycle. Also, the price of furs has slumped so badly that the normal trapping has not been sufficient to keep down their numbers.

The three worst centres in the epidemic area are High Level, Fort Vermilion and Moose Lake. At High Level, located at the junction of the Mackenzie Highway with the Fort Vermilion road, two mad foxes were killed with clubs in the clearing of the settlement when they attempted to attack humans.

Infected Foxes Bite at Stones

James Jones, owner of a motel at High Level, reported that when stones were thrown at the foxes they would not run away. Instead they would dash forward to bite and "worry" the thrown stone. Mr. Jones, who was formerly a trader at Aklavik, said the symptoms were similar to the epidemic which wiped out many sled dogs in the Mackenzie River area several years ago.

Besides the two foxes which were killed, the residents at High Level have killed two dogs which were believed to have been bitten by maddened animals.

A few miles to the east, a homesteader, Dick Olsen, reported that while he was grubbing roots in a new clearing, a timber wolf boldly crossed the clearing and approached within several yards of him. Mr. Olsen, who had been armed with only an axe, stated that the animal surveyed him, then casually walked into the bush. Residents of the area agreed that this was not the normal behavior of wolves, which normally are not seen in the daytime.

A rabid fox was shot by Hugh Dempsey, Within Our Borders writer, a few miles south of High Level at Mile 165 on the Mackenzie Highway. The mad fox was sighted near the road and, like the dozens of others killed in the epidemic area, was at that stage of madness when it would attack without provocation. Another traveller reported sighting about 25 foxes during a two-hour drive in the area.

The most frightening brush with a mad timber wolf was experienced by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kowal, who farm west of Fort Vermilion. This beast attacked the farm and after biting and infecting 12 hogs and a cow, attacked the Kowal home. The animal, which weighed 150 pounds, gnashed at the wood on the entranceway and hurled all its weight forward to attempt to open the door. It took the combined strength of Mr. and Mrs. Kowal to keep the mad beast out and at one stage it was reported to have wedged its head through the door opening.

The animal was shot next morning. Mr. Kowal's son, who skinned the beast, is under treatment against rabies and several of the infected hogs have died. The brain of the rabid animal was sent to eastern Canada where a positive diagnosis was given, while the remainder of the carcass was destroyed.

Wolf Assault on Tractor

A few miles away, at the home of Art Simmons, another wolf is reported to have attacked the farmer while he was working on his tractor in the field. The beast chewed the tires of the tractor before disappearing into the bush.

Another farmer under treatment is reported to have pried a fox's jaw apart to save his dog. Although he was wearing gloves at the time he is being given treatment by Dr. Kratz. At Moose Lake, east of Fort Vermilion, almost all the dogs in the area have died with symptoms indicating rabies. Several horses have also died in this isolated area but rabies has not been proven.

The canine family — dogs, foxes, wolves — are the most susceptible to the disease and symptoms may appear within two to 14 days, depending upon the location of the wound which caused the infection. An early symptom in dogs is a period of depression or unusual friendliness which may last for one or two days. Then it will have the urge to roam and generally will bite any living thing in its path, although rarely will it go out of its way to attack a particular object. Many times a rabid dog may try to eat such articles as sticks, stones or rags.

In an effort to control the disease in Alberta and prevent it from spreading to humans, Dr. Kratz posted notices that anyone in the area who is bitten by a fox or dog must report either to him or the R.C.M.P. Other regulations put into effect stipulate that

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

Ranch-Raised Mink Boost Value Of Fur Production

Raw fur production in Alberta for 1951-52 totalled $4,492,375. This includes both ranch-raised animals and wild animals which were trapped.

In the year ending June 30, there were 2,065,427 wild animals trapped in Alberta, valued at $1,765,849. Ranch-raised animals, during the year ending August 31, yielded 152,232 pelts, their value being $2,726,527.

The high value of ranch fur production was due mainly to the 112,890 ranch-raised standard mink. They were valued at $1,806,240, while 34,438 mutation minks had a value of $860,950. Wild standard mink trapped totalled 2,866 and were valued at $70,217.

Squirrels and muskrats brought highest returns for the trappers. Squirrels totalled 1,488,240 and were valued at $714,355, while 456,860 muskrats brought $639,604. Ermine, or weasels, numbered 92,285 for a value of $162,421 and beavers, valued at $148,366, totalled 12,282 trapped.

Blue fox were few in number and low in value. A single blue fox was trapped, its value being only $6.58, and four ranch-raised blue fox averaged $10 each. ●

Rabies Epidemic

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

if a fox attacks a dog or a human being, the fox should be killed, the dog tied up and the case reported immediately. From then on neither the fox nor the dog should be touched because of the highly infectious nature of the disease. The dog then is watched for 14 days for signs of viciousness, frothing at the mouth, or paralysis.

The most southerly report of a rabid fox being killed was near Paddle Prairie, about 150 miles north of Grimshaw. This fox, which was lame and had porcupine quills in its lips, was shot by Dr. E. E. Ballantyne, Provincial Director of Veterinary Services. A diagnosis of the brain of the dead beast indicated that it had rabies.

In addition to preventing the disease from spreading into settled areas, it has been suggested that steps will be taken to wipe out the existing rabid fox and wolf population. One of the most effective weapons would be poisoned carcasses set out in the worst areas. Last winter one settler was able to kill 13 timber wolves with only three pounds of meat by using this method. Since all dogs in the area are chained, there would be no danger in using the poison.

All Dogs Being Vaccinated

Both the Federal Health of Animals Division and the Provincial Medical Officer of Health are carrying out a campaign to vaccinate all dogs in the area and to keep under observation all animals which have been bitten by rabid foxes or wolves. Outside of the epidemic area, dogs have been vaccinated at Keg River, Carcajou, Upper Hay, Paddle Prairie and Hay Lakes.

Generally, the epidemic has made the population of the Fort Vermilion area fearful of the wilderness that surrounds them. Almost all farmers and homesteaders carry a rifle with them when going into the fields and many children are not allowed to ride horseback or walk to school alone.

There is no way of determining how or when the epidemic will be stopped. A severe winter will do more than anything else to wipe out the number of disease-ridden beasts, and in the meantime it is being fought with serum, public information, rifles and poison. ●

"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration and services of the Alberta Government.

It is believed the many and varied services of the Government will be effective in the degree they are known and used.

Any material used is for immediate republication. All photographs used are Alberta Government Photographs unless otherwise specified.

Correspondence should be addressed to "Within Our Borders," Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

The Changing Face Of Alberta

Stooks of grain reach to the horizon in this grain field north of Grimshaw, prosperous farming area of northern Alberta.

Improved Guidance Service Provided By Calgary Clinic

Improved facilities for the investigation of psychological problems of school children and adults are provided in the new and enlarged Provincial Guidance Clinic at Calgary.

The clinic, which recently moved to the third floor of the Alberta Office Building, 134 8th Ave. E., Calgary, serves the needs of southern Alberta by holding clinics regularly at Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Brooks, High River, Pincher Creek, Cardston, Claresholm, Didsbury and Drumheller. Another Provincial Guidance Clinic is located at Edmonton and serves northern Alberta.

A psychiatrist, psychologist and two social workers compose the members of the team which acts as a consulting agency to assist in the problems of school children and adults. This service is provided free. At the moment the clinic does not have a full-time psychiatrist but the part-time services of Dr. M. Carnat are available at Calgary.

The Guidance Clinic staff works in co-operation with parents, children, the medical profession and social agencies to provide relief for children or adults trying to adjust to personal problems which may be causing unhappiness and difficulties.

Children form the majority of the cases, with 42 percent of the 404 new cases examined last year being referred to the clinic by school authorities. However, voluntary requests for assistance are accepted. A parent wishing assistance with an emotionally upset child or an adult wishing personal guidance can phone for an appointment. During 1951, 10 percent of the new cases attended voluntarily, 13 percent were referred by private physicians and 35 percent by community agencies and other sources.

The spacious and well-lighted clinic provides excellent facilities for examination of children. From the large and comfortably furnished waiting room, a door leads to two observation rooms. Each of these observation rooms is equipped with a window of two-way vision glass so that the members of the clinic can watch the children's activities from rooms on the side, yet remain unseen by the children.

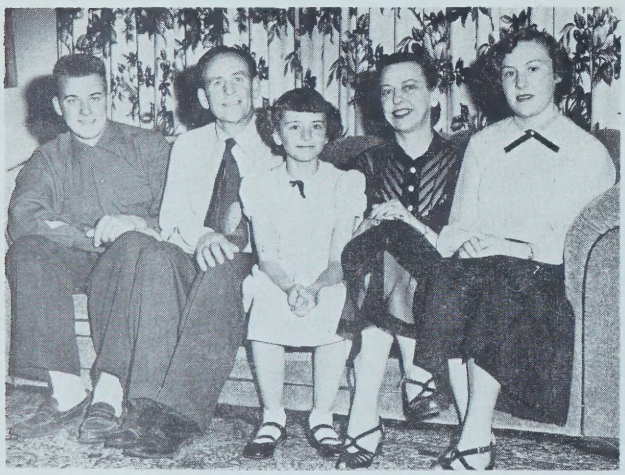
One of the rooms at the side of the observation rooms is available for the use of the visitors from social agencies. A large and quiet play-room, equipped with a variety of playthings to suit age groups from 2½ years to 14, also provides ideal facilities for the observation of child behavior. Through the two-way vision glass, the staff can observe children re-enacting home situations in a doll house while a social worker in the playroom takes notes on the child's talk.

The clinic contains an up-to-date library of books and periodicals on psychiatric and educational problems which can be loaned out to workers from other Calgary social agencies. ●

A Within Our Borders Picture Page

ALBERTA'S MASTER FARM FAMILIES

At left, the Schmaltz Master Farm Family. In the front row (left to right) are Lima; J. H. (Joe) Schmaltz; Mrs. Schmaltz; and Stanley, of Calgary. Back row: Norman; Leonard, of Calgary, an airline pilot; Gregory; and Clarence. At centre, is an aerial view of the Schmaltz farm showing the extensive growth of trees protecting the beautiful farm. At right is the Jesse Cole Master Farm Family of Clive: Mr. and Mrs. Cole, their seven-year-old daughter, Margaret; and sons Allan, 14 (left) and Ronald, 18 (right).



The Lewis Master Farm Family. From left to right are shown Jack, Mr. Lewis, Carol, Mrs. Lewis and Beth.

Jack Lewis, 20-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, is Alberta's plowing champion. He is shown here measuring a furrow for uniformity while his father looks on approvingly.

The Lambert Master Farm Family, of Manning, is shown above at left. In the front row are Gail, Mr. and Mrs. Lambert, Thelma, and Ivan. In the back row are Dorothy, Helen and Charlie. At centre is the farm of the John Skrypitsky Family of Royal Park, near Mundare, while the members of the family at right are, (front row) Mr. and Mrs. Skrypitsky, and their six-year-old daughter, Mary-Jane. In the rear are Walter, Vicky, Zonia and Archie.

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